United Nations A/61/123/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 December 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 95
Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum*

Contents

		Page
II.	Replies received from Governments	2
	Spain	2

* The information contained in the present addendum was received after the submission of the main report.

06-65022 (E) 191206

II. Replies received from Governments

Spain

[26 November 2006]

Spain welcomes the adoption of resolution 60/94, entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region", and welcomes as well the request to all States to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Spain, in its belief that the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region should be a major priority not only for the countries of the region, has always promoted the adoption of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms of cultural and political understanding. The Mediterranean region security agenda faces old and new challenges: economic stagnation and unemployment, the increasing gap of development between the two rims, terrorism and illegal migration. Nevertheless, Spain believes that those challenges imply new opportunities for dialogue as well, in an increasingly interdependent region.

Spain is one of the main supporters of the Barcelona process, a partnership where the European Union and its neighbours of the South (including Israel) share their views and efforts towards a better future for the region. However, the specificity of this process has been not only to create a framework for political dialogue, but also to incorporate important mechanisms of financial assistance that are complementary to any effective cooperation and dialogue. Indeed, the region is facing challenges that can only be solved through a comprehensive attempt that includes political and security dialogue alongside a financial and economic perspective and a sociocultural attempt to integrate both rims.

Terrorism is, alongside the aforementioned economic and development gaps, one of the main threats that our region is facing. Spain, cooperating at both the regional and subregional levels, recently focused its efforts in the celebration of the Barcelona Summit of 2005. As a result, one of the main achievements of this Summit was the adoption of a Euro-Mediterranean Code of Conduct on Countering Terrorism. In fact, it is the first document of this nature adopted within this specific regional context and it incorporates a strong commitment in the fight against terrorism, alongside a declaration of the principles that should guide any attempt to address this dramatic issue.

Spain welcomes the adoption of this document since it reflects the existence of a consensus between the European Union, the Muslim and Arabic countries from the southern rim and Israel, reflecting as well the unanimous rejection of terrorism and of those who support it.

The Mediterranean region is facing other specific threats in the field of "hard security", mainly the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Chairman's statement, issued in Barcelona in 2005, recognized the commitment of all the partners to work together in order to achieve a region free of weapons of mass destruction, enhancing the commitment reflected in 1995 in the Barcelona Declaration. In addition, Spain is supporting the inclusion of issues related to the European Security and Defence Policy in the Mediterranean projection of the European Union.

Other regional initiatives out of the Barcelona process format have proven to be extremely beneficial as well. In order to address the issue of migration, Spain welcomed the celebration, in July 2006, of the "Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development". It showed that regional dialogue and cooperation are indeed essential to confront regional issues.

Spain has tried to incorporate this spirit of constructive dialogue and partnership resulting from the Barcelona process to other global initiatives sponsored by the United Nations, mainly throughout the Alliance of Civilizations.

In addition, Spain follows and very actively supports the developments of the Mediterranean Dialogue of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and of the Mediterranean Partners of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). NATO could play an important and complementary role to the one that the European Union plays in the field of security dialogue. The OSCE expertise will incorporate in fact an essential added value to the regional dialogue. Spain is also fully involved in United Nations attempts to stabilize the region, either in the Balkans or in Lebanon.

At the subregional and bilateral levels, Spain is committed to political and security dialogue in particular through the "Five Plus Five" initiative, especially at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Defence. This format has proven to be extremely useful to foster security dialogue and cooperation among Governments of the western Mediterranean.

Spain has undoubtedly shown a strong commitment to peace, security and stability within the framework of the Barcelona process. Nevertheless, Spain believes that a South-South dialogue and cooperation in the fields of mutual political understanding, security, free trade, development and migration also remain an essential step in order to reinforce the regional approach intended by the European Union and by the United Nations.

The Kingdom of Spain actively supports all these efforts through its participation in all of the legal instruments and initiatives undertaken at the regional level or sponsored by the United Nations in order to promote sustainable development, political freedom and mutual understanding in the areas of proliferation and disarmament, transparency in military affairs, cooperation in the fight against terrorism, illegal migration and organized crime.